

STYLE RADAR

TAP THAT APP

Trover

Whether you've called China home for 10 years or are just settling down here, you'll find novel sights to explore on Trover – an app that lets users share travel ideas and post photos of cool places they stumble across in cities around the world.

A search of things 'nearby' Guangzhou, for instance, led us to hole-in-the-wall eateries serving everything from crocodile to geoduck, street art in the suburbs of Shawan and the crispiest *youtiao* (fried dough sticks) in town. We had to sift through no small number of generic Canton Tower pics to find those, of course, but hidden among all those well-trodden tourist locales are gems we're confident most locals haven't heard of. If you see a place you'd love to visit, just click 'add to list' and watch it fly onto your virtual bucket list.

The app is sort of a cross between Instagram and Trip Advisor, with a photo-heavy newsfeed and brief written reviews under each featured image. Categories like 'hiking,' 'food and drink' and 'arts and entertainment' draw more results in cities like Hong Kong and Beijing, where there are ostensibly more users posting more frequently.

Aside from using the app to pinpoint your next weekend adventure, you can also share your awesome off-the-beaten-path finds with the Trover community, and maybe even rise to 'experience junkie' status.

Users can sign in with their Facebook, Twitter or email accounts, which is either convenient or cumbersome, depending on how smoothly your VPN is running. The good news? You don't need to sign in to view others' photos – only to post your own.

Trover is available for both iPhone and Android devices. Visit trover.com for more info.



INSPECT-A-GADGET

USD17 Bluetooth Headphones

In 2010, the iPad arrived, proving that tablets could be done right and leading a pack of new entrants to the market – not aiming for Apple-level quality, but competing on price point.

2016 saw Apple's Bluetooth headphones, the AirPods, and, again, a follow-the-leader rush. But costing more than RMB1,000, there is plenty of space for lower prices.

Though the tech is old, the Bluetooth headphone has seen price drops in 2017, making a solid set less a show of buying power than a natural next step – if you can accept the drawbacks.

Audiophiles will wretch at a decreased sound quality through the RMB129 Kugou brand headphones we tried, but to the average ear they are good enough to get through a run and the lack of a wire means your phone can stay safely zipped in a pocket.

The Kugous packed a surprising amount of bass, which may owe to an earplug design that almost seals the ear. It's great if you want to hear the music, not great if you want to hear anything else.

Placing the headphones back to back sees a magnet hold them together and functions as an on-off switch. Separated, they connect to a nearby Bluetooth device – which can be both convenient and baffling.



Finally, they need to be charged. Yes, microUSB is universal enough that a cable is likely within your reach right now, but it is another complication over the headphones' cabled cousins.

RMB129 Kugou Bluetooth headphones; available on JD.com (search 蓝牙耳机)

COVET

Timberland x MADNESS Type-MD01

Hong Kong actor Shawn Yue's streetwear label MADNESS has already worked with international brands like A Bathing Ape, VANS and Carhartt on various crossover collections over the years. At the center of its latest collaboration with Timberland, which debuted in late November, is the 'Type-MD01' – a pair of dark navy six-inch boots made with weather-resistant suede. Available on the MADNESS online store and at their Beijing shop.

www.mdsonline.com



DAYTRIPPER

Nansha Wetland Park

It didn't take long after moving to Guangzhou to notice that the city is largely devoid of birds. Sure, there is no shortage of wet market chickens, ducks and geese, and yes, wild birds do endure in the city, but compared to other cities, Guangzhou seems to be seriously lacking in the 'feathered friend' department.

If you, like myself, have found yourself missing the chirpy serenade of the sparrow, the sorrowful swan songs of the early morning and the crow's 'caw,' you will thoroughly enjoy this month's featured day trip: Nansha Wetland Park.

Chosen as one of the 'Eight Sights of Guangzhou' in 2011, this man-made eco-destination is located about a two-hour transit journey from the city center – although the commute does have its rewards. At Nansha Wetland Park, the chaotic sounds of the city are replaced with a symphony of bird calls and, on my visit, the rustling of leaves in the autumn wind.

Of China's 271 wetland bird species, 140 of them can be found in the park, depending on the season (many of the birds in the park are migratory), including the oriental white stork – a first-class national protected species.

According to one of the many bilingual signs that dot the Nansha Wetland Park, up to 100,000 migratory birds spend the winter in the park each year.

Visitors must pay RMB50 to enter and have three main options for exploring: on foot, via shared-bike or by boat. The latter option offers curious daytrippers a unique view of the park's numerous waterways, albeit for the kinda-steep price of RMB150.

Myself, I decided to walk, utilizing the Nansha Wetland Park's system of roads and boardwalks, which hug the water's edge and occasionally jut out over the water. While stroll-

ing the wooden walkways, I spotted a myriad of fish, over a dozen different bird species and two large and healthy-looking rats attempting to procreate in a shrub (seriously).

There are a few food (read: snack) options in the park, as well as an interpretive center. And, as previously mentioned, most of the signs I encountered included both Chinese and English.

Full disclosure: navigating the rural areas of Guangzhou's peripheral Nansha District requires both a hearty dose of patience and basic Chinese language skills (or a Chinese friend you can call in a pinch). Much like Huadu, Conghua and Zengcheng districts, Nansha has limited metro service (with five stops in the entire district, all on Line 4) and those without a car will be required to master the various bus routes that traverse Guangzhou's southernmost region.

If venturing by bus around Nansha sounds like a tiring endeavor, you may want to consider spending the night. We can recommend the Garden Nansha Resort and the Sheraton Guangzhou Nansha Hotel, which is located a 15-minute walk from Guangzhou Metro Line 4's Jinzhou Station and boasts a fantastic Chinese restaurant, Yue, honored as 'Outstanding New Chinese Restaurant' in our 2017 That's PRD Food & Drink Awards. **MB**

How to get there:

Take Guangzhou Metro Line 4 to Jiaomen Station and then catch the No. 2 bus, which you will ride for 31 stops to Si San Chong. From there, catch either the No. 11 bus or the No. 25 bus, which you will ride for four stops to Nansha Wetland Park.



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